



## **News Release**

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### **UDOH Director Elected to Lead National Health Group**

(St. Louis) – Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Executive Director David N. Sundwall, MD, was elected president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) in a unanimous vote during the Association's annual meeting yesterday. ASTHO is the leading voice for state and territorial public health initiatives across the nation. It supports work on a wide range of state, national and global public health issues including emerging infectious diseases; chronic disease prevention; pandemic, natural disaster, and bioterrorism preparedness; environmental health; access to care; and infrastructure and systems development.

"It is an honor for me to represent my fellow state health officers, an extraordinary group of individuals who are on the front lines daily of the battle against threats to our health," said Dr. Sundwall. "Public health efforts prevent injuries, disabilities, premature death, and can help reduce the need for costly health care. During the upcoming presidential election, I am committed to ensuring that all candidates understand just how essential a strong public health system is, and to include support for our nation's public health system as part of their recommendations for health care reform."

"Dr. Sundwall brings extensive public health experience and demonstrated leadership abilities to ASTHO," said ASTHO Executive Director Paul Jarris, MD, MBA. "His valuable insight and commitment to excellence in public health will ensure that we continue to make significant advances in state-based public health practice and performance."

Dr. Sundwall is a primary care physician with more than two decades of experience in public policy and service. He earned his medical degree at the University of Utah College of Medicine and completed further training at the Harvard Family Medicine Residency Program. He remains on the faculty of the University of Utah School of Medicine as Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

In a distinguished career of academic appointments, public service and policy development, Dr.

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Sundwall has been widely recognized for his professional achievements and contributions to healthcare policy and advocacy. Dr. Sundwall was most recently President of the American Clinical Laboratory Association from 1994 to 2003 and subsequently Senior Medical and Scientific Officer. He holds three medical school faculty appointments, including Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine and Georgetown University College of Medicine, Washington, D.C. He has held numerous positions in the public health sector: from 1988 to 1994, he was Vice President and Medical Director of American Healthcare Systems, an alliance of not-for-profit multi-hospital systems. Prior to that appointment, he was Administrator in the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. Sundwall has served as an advisor, task force member and chairman of numerous committees involved with public health policy and quality including those connected with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration. In addition, his federal experience included serving as the Assistant Surgeon General in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. During this period, he had adjunct responsibilities at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) including: Co-Chairman of the HHS Secretary's Task Force on Medical Liability and Malpractice, and was the HHS Secretary's Designee to the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality.

Dr. Sundwall is an author or coauthor of numerous publications in peer-reviewed medical literature. He has also contributed chapters to many books covering a broad spectrum of healthcare issues. He is licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, and is a member of the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*